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Draft of letter from W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] to Samuel G. I. DeCamp regarding: Beaumont's defense of Decamp, statement of DeCamp's desire to obey orders. September 10, 1840

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St. Louis Sept 10. 1840

Sir

At your request, to be made use of for your protection against ~~you~~ <sup>against</sup> a gross injustice threatened by the Surgeon Genl. Lawson I state and hereby certify, that about the month of Oct<sup>r</sup> - 1839 you exhibited to me the order of the Surg<sup>r</sup> Genl. requiring you to perform the medical duties for the Army at both this city & the Arsenal & ~~further~~ that you declared your ~~read~~ willingness & readiness to perform these duties, thus notifying me that my services were no longer required.

I further state that the officers of the Army in St. Louis, ~~all~~ <sup>or</sup> most if not all of them know of your having received such an order, as the character of the order and the circumstances of the case became the subject of frequent conversation <sup>with those officers</sup> in my hearing & presence ~~with the officers~~.

I very cheerfully furnish you the above statement to enable you to meet & set aside any pecuniary charges which the Surgeon Genl. may make against you & ~~and~~ judging from the want of foresight & common sense shown by the ~~Surgeon Genl.~~ weak head of your Dept. in issuing the order



It would not surprise me if he should attempt to protect himself and the public Treasury from the natural & even necessary consequences by an effort to require you to pay for the medical services which I have continued to render both in this City & the Arsenal whenever called <sup>on</sup> or whenever my services were necessary.

The least consideration might have shown Dr. Lawson, if his capacity was not at zero, that it was utterly impracticable for you or any medical officer to render at the Arsenal & at this City the services due to the Sick of the Army while you were stationed at Jeff. Bks. 10 miles distant, & the result has fully demonstrated the folly & absurdity of his <sup>ridiculous order</sup> measures, — To guard against the effect of that folly, which might rather be called wickedness as endangering the Sick for whose attention it was his duty to provide, I have given ~~constant~~ <sup>my own</sup> attention and ~~for~~ having thus acquired a just claim for com-



pensation the Surge Genl, it appears, in  
a spirit every way becoming him, but  
disgraceful to the <sup>head of the</sup> Corps over which  
he presides, has come to the determination  
to charge you with the amount, rather  
than to allow it to me. But he can  
upon no principle whatever charge the  
amount to you, ~~but~~ <sup>yet</sup> if he should so far  
exert himself in <sup>an</sup> act of tyranny as  
to produce a stoppage upon you I  
will readily withdraw all claims  
from adjudication at the head of the  
Med. Dept & will look to a higher  
Officer where I may hope to find  
<sup>intelligence</sup> more intellect, more humanity  
<sup>more liberality</sup> and a better sense of justice.

Sincerely commiserating the  
Officers of the Medical Dept under  
their present Chief I remain

Respectfully Yrs: Geo. S. S.



Sept 10. 1840